



Rec'd
4/3/84

190		c.3
Berlitz Schools of Languages		
AUTHOR		
The Berlitz self-teacher: Russian.		
DATE DUE	BORROWER'S NAME	
MAY 24	Aldo Bentley	
JUN 21	J. M. M. 4224	
FEB 10	34 91 G 157	
SEP 10	4625 Oswald	
MAR 2	Renewed letter	
AUG 29	5850 Stearns 409	
	38 1st 7-299	
SEP 30	589 Stocks	
OCT 14	Renewed	
NOV 2	J. M. M. 5982	
NOV 18	J. M. M. 5982	
Library Bureau Cat. No. 1139		

Historically Significant
Lee Harvey Oswald Item

SEE PAGE 2, ITEM #5801

EXTREMELY RARE AND HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT LEE HARVEY OSWALD

ITEM: THE LIBRARY CARD FROM THE BOOK FROM WHICH OSWALD TAUGHT

HIMSELF RUSSIAN SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEFECTION TO RUSSIA IN 1959!

OSWALD, LEE HARVEY (1939-1963). The assassin of President John F. Kennedy, who was himself assassinated shortly thereafter by Jack Ruby. Oswald entered the Marine Corps in 1956 at age 17. After serving three years, in Oct. 1959, he lied to the Marine Corps and obtained a hardship discharge on the guise of helping his widowed mother. After staying with his mother for less than a week, he defected to Russia. During the last few months of his Marine Corps service, he taught himself to speak, read and write Russian.

In Gerald R. Ford's book, Portrait of the Assassin (1965), which Ford wrote while a congressman and as a member of the Warren Commission, there are the following interesting excerpts about Oswald's reading and self-taught Russian linguistic ability: on page 64, excerpting Marguerite Oswald's (Lee Harvey's mother) testimony before the commission: "...Lee has had quite a bit of schooling and he spoke Russian equivalent to one year when he defected to Russia. I have that on his application from the Albert Schweitzer College. And Lee spoke and wrote Russian fluently when he went to Russia. So Lee learns (sic) Russian in the Marines." On page 71 of Ford's book, the following notation is referred to which was found among Oswald's papers after the assassination which was apparently written while he was en route back from Russia: "Entering the Marine Corps at 17 this streak of independence was strengthened by exotic journeys to Japan, the Philippines and the scores of odd islands in the Pacific. Immediately after serving out three years in the U.S.M.C., he abandoned his American life to seek a new life in the U.S.S.R. Full of optimism and hope, he stood in Red Square in the fall of 1959 vowing to see his chosen course through." On page 74..." It had taken every cent he had been able to scrimp together during those endless months in the Marine Corps. He had trained himself--poured over Marx, Engels, and Lenin and even spent grueling hours trying to teach himself the Russian language." On page 174, "...In the Marine Corps he had been nicknamed 'Ozzie Rabbit' after Harvey, the rabbit in the moving pictures. Marina didn't know this, but she frequently made the unfortunate mistake of saying, 'Oh, You're such a brave rabbit.' A Russian expression that goaded him to fury...She belittled him and antagonized him at every turn. Again there were fights..."

The Warren Commission Report states, p. 388, "Oswald studied Marxism after he joined the Marines and his sympathies in that direction and for the Soviet Union appear to have been widely known, at least in the unit to which he was assigned after his return from the Far East. His interest in Russian led some of his associates to call him 'Comrade' and 'Oswaldskovitch'. He always wanted to play the red pieces in Chess because as he said, in an apparently humorous context, he preferred the Red Army. He studied the Russian language, read a Russian newspaper and seemed interested in what was going on in the Soviet Union." On page 684 of the Warren Commission Report: "On Dec. 22 (1959), Oswald was assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron No. 9 (MACS-9) at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, California where he had been briefly before he went overseas....It seems clear from the vivid recollections of those who knew him at El Toro that by the time Oswald returned to the U.S. (from his overseas assignment(s), he no longer had any spirit for the Marines. The attitudes which had prompted his enlistment as soon as he was eligible were entirely gone and his attention had turned away from the Marines to what he might do after his discharge. While no one was able to predict his attempt to defect to Russia within a month after he left the Marines, the testimony of those who knew him at El Toro, in contrast to his associates in Japan, leaves no doubt that his thoughts were occupied increasingly with Russia and the

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Russian way of life. He had studied the Russian language enough by Feb. 25, 1959, to request that he be given a foreign language qualification test; (in Russian); his rating was "poor" on all parts of the test. (Oswald checked out the book, of which this is the original library card: Berlitz Schools of Languages, The Berlitz Self-teacher: Russian, on Feb. 16 (1959) and renewed same on March 2). Most of the Marines who knew him were aware he was studying Russian; one of them, Henry J. Roussel, Jr., arranged a date between Lee and his aunt, Rosaleen Quinn, an airline stewardess who was also studying Russian. (Miss Quinn thought Oswald spoke Russian well in view of his lack of formal training; she found the evening uninteresting. Donovan, with whom she had a date later, testified that she told him that Oswald was "kind of an odd ball".) He read and perhaps subscribed to, a newspaper, possibly printed in Russian, which his associates connected with his Russian bent." (page 687). "Oswald's interest in Russian and developing ideological attachment to theoretical Communism apparently dominated his stay at El Toro. He was still withdrawn from most of his fellow, although his special interest appears to have made him stand out more than he had at other posts and to have given him a source for conversation which he had hereto lacked. According to several of the witnesses, names like "Ozzie Rabbit" still clung to him. His reading acquired direction: books like "Das Kapital" and Orwell's "Animal Farm" and "1984" are mentioned in testimony concerning this period." (Page 688). "In the spring (of 1959) Oswald applied to Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland for admission to the spring term, 1960. His application is dated March 19th (1959) (some three days after he returned the Berlitz self-taught Russian book to the library.) Schweitzer is a small school which specialized in courses in religion, ethics, science and literature. He claimed a proficiency in Russian, equal to one year of schooling and that he had completed high school by correspondence with an average grade of 85 per cent."

In legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald by Edward Jay Epstein, McGraw-Hill, 1978, pp. 85 & 86: "While most of the men in the unit (at El Toro) enjoyed the easy life at the California base, Oswald arranged to take a Marine Corps proficiency examination in the Russian language, which he took on Feb. 25, 1959. In reading Russian, he achieved a score of plus four, which meant he got four more answers right than wrong. In writing Russian, he scored plus three, and in comprehending spoken Russian, he was weaker, scoring minus five, while his overall score was considered "poor" when compared to the results of those studying Russian at language schools, it showed that he had learned, if not mastered the rudiments of a very difficult foreign language. More over, since it would take more than the three months he had been back in the United States to achieve such a stage in written and spoken Russian, except under extraordinary circumstances, Oswald would have had to have begun his training in Russian while he was still in Japan. None of his barrack-mates in Japan, however, remember Oswald's using a linguaphone or records to learn Russian." Oswald obviously self-taught himself Russian in the spring of 1959 before his defection, this item indicating his primary source.

The library card from the book Oswald checked out of the library and used to teach himself Russian in the Spring of 1959 before his discharge from the Marines and defection to Russia in the Fall of 1959. Library card measuring 3" x 5" for "Berlitz Schools of Languages: The Berlitz Self-teacher: Russian". Oswald's name is the 4th entry on the recto of the card. To the left of Oswald's signature is the stamped date, Feb. 16 (1959), beside which Oswald has written: "4625 Oswald". Beneath this is the entry, stamped Mar. 2 (1959), and the word "Renewed" is written, possibly in Oswald's hand. On March 16th, the book was checked out by someone else, indicating that Oswald kept this book for 30 days, between Feb. 16 and March 16, 1959. Both sides of the library card are filled out by those who subsequently checked out the book the date of the last entry being Oct. 21, 1963.

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PROVENANCE: Comes with a self-explanatory letter from the original owner, April 19, 1986, to Lone Star Autographs: "Enclosed is the library card with Oswald's signature on it. I was stationed at El Toro Marine Base in California starting in January of 1964. While there, I spent a lot of time at the base library where I worked some. I got the card while there. I gave the card to my step-father in June of 1964, and received it back upon his death." Signed, with the address and phone number of the original owner. The card is laminated. This is a historically significant item because it is obviously the card from the book from which Oswald taught himself Russian just a few months prior to his discharge from the Marines and his defection to Russia, which was the start of his activities which culminated in President Kennedy's assassination. This piece is unquestionably genuine and it is difficult to imagine a more important or significant Oswald item. Very little Oswald material has or will ever come on the market. Due to his assassination at the age of 24, his material is already one of the rarest Americana autographs. Ironically, Oswald material is far rarer and more costly than material of his victim, John F. Kennedy, whose authentic material is also very rare. We have not seen a finer, more important or poignant Oswald item on the market. A great rarity and an investment quality piece with excellent association value and provenance. Net to all.....\$12,500.00
(See cover of catalog for illustration)

"KING SAID OF SUEZ CANAL FAME"

(ROYALTY) (EGYPT) (SAID) (1822-1863). King of Egypt (1854-63). In full: Muhammad Said Pasha, Vall of Egypt. Said was European in appearance and habits and seemed like the reincarnation of Henry VIII - he had a mountainous figure, red beard, small piercing eyes, and bluff manner. Like King Hal, he alternated between cruelty and prodigal open handedness; "Give him two hundred", he would shout, without explaining whether he meant pieces of gold or lashes of the whip. He also resembled the eighth Henry in his love of good living and sumptuous entertainments; though as a man he would certainly have been unlike the Tudor Monarch - drinking in moderation, conversing charmingly and wittily with his guests in Parisian French. And he showed himself to be less European than his 16th century English counterpart in being faithful to one single childless wife, although he did have children by a concubine. The most important achievement of his reign, of course, was the Suez Canal for which he granted the concession. Port Said, the town which grew up at the canal's Mediterranean entrance, commemorates his support. Extremely rare and fine hand tinted c.d.v., circa 1860, showing Said 3/4 length wearing a Prince Albert coat, and large decorations pinned to his coat. He is sporting a full beard and mustache and sporting a red turban like hat. On verso, printed in both Arabic and French: Abdulla Freres/ Photographes De Sa Majeste Imperiale/ Le Sultan/ Pera / Constantinople. Fine. Excessively rare.....[5590].....\$295.00

WEST, MAE. Legendary early movie actress. Vintage 4to B&W ISP, circa 1950. 3/4 length pose, showing her wearing a large sombrero like hat, wearing a white dress. Boldly signed in a light area. Nice.....[5591].....\$195.00

TRUMAN, BESS W. First Lady. Boldly signed White House Card. Pristine. Not common in this format.....[5592].....\$250.00

(OLD WEST). Original sepia cabinet photograph of a real cowgirl, shown in buckskins, hat and aiming a 6-gun. The photo is titled "A True Girl of the West", copyright 1906 by Geo. B. Cornish, Arkansas City, Kans." Pristine. Scarce original Old West photograph.....[5593].....\$150.00

(BOXING) HAGLER, "MARVELOUS" MARVIN. "Undisputed Middleweight Champ". 4to color SP. Shown in "Dukes Up" pose....[5594]....\$18.50
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